

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 04150 061732Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /106 W
-----126653 061735Z /64

P R 061650Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1072
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4150

E.O. 11652: GDS
TLS: PGOV ET IT
SUBJECT: VISITS OF ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND OAU SECRETARY
GENERAL

1. SUMMARY: TWO VISITORS INVOLVED IN HORN CONFLICT VISITED
ROME LAST WEEK ON WAY HOME FROM TRIPOLI CONFERENCE: ETHIOPIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER AND OAU SECRETARY GENERAL. IN CON-
VERSATIONS WITH ITALIANS NEITHER BROKE ANY NEW GROUND. END
SUMMARY.

2. ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MET FOR THREE HOURS LAST WEEK
WITH ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI. ACCORDING TO MFA,
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FELEKE REJECTED FORLANI'S SUGGESTION THAT SOVIET AND CUBAN
PRESENCE MIGHT COMPROMISE ETHIOPIAN INDEPENDENCE. FELEKE
SAID THAT EITHIOPIANS HAVE HISTORICALLY MAINTAINED THEIR
INDEPENDENCE AND CAN GET RID OF SOVIETS WHENEVER THEY WANT,
JUST AS SOMALIA. DID. ETHIOPIANS DO NOT AGREE WITH SOVIETS
ON ALL ISSUES AND INDEED TURNED TO THEM ONLY IN DESPERA-
TION WHEN WEST REFUSED TO GIVE REQUESTED HELP. IN THIS

CONNECTION, FELEKE SAID THAT MEETING WITH SPECIAL US REPRESENTATIVE DAVID AARON HAD BEEN VERY FURITFUL.

3. AS TO OGADEN CONFLICT, FELEKE REFUSED TO CONSIDER NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE SOMALI WITHDRAWAL. SOMALI AGGRESSION WAS IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND COULD NOT THEREFORE BE LINKED OR BALANCED OFF AGAINST ISSUES SUCH AS AUTONOMY FOR OGADEN. FELEKE DISPLAYED SOME NERVOUSNESS ABOUT SIAD BARRE TRIP TO TRIPOLI AND WAS NOT HAPPY ABOUT PROSPECT OF QADDHAFI INVOLVEMENT AS HE CONSIDERS QADDHAFI A SPECIALIST IN PLAYING ONE SIDE OFF AGAINST THE OTHER.

4. FELEKE SAID THAT ETHIOPIANS BELIEVE THAT GOI HAS GENERALLY PLAYED CONSTRUCTIVE, IMPARTIAL ROLE IN CONFLICT, BUT STILL HOPE THAT ITALIANS WILL CONDEMN SOMALI AGGRESSION. FORLANI SIAD THAT GOI DOES NOT UNILATERALLY CONDEMN COUNTRIES; RATHER THEY ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH CONDEMNATIONS MADE BY MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS UN. IF ETHIOPIANS WANT ITALIAN CONDEMNATION OF SOMALI, THEY SHOULD SEEK SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. FELEKE REPLIED THAT ETHIOPIANS STILL WISH TO WORK WITHIN OAU.

5. OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI MET BRIEFLY WITH GOI OFFICIALS AND GAVE HIS VIEWS OF SIAD BARRE TRIP TO LIBYA. ETEKI BELIEVES THAT SIAD WAS IMPRESSED BY WAY IN WHICH CHAD DISPUTE WAS RESOLVED AND SAW ELEMENTS IN IT WHICH HE WOULD

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LIKE IN SETTLEMENT OF OGADEN: RETENTION OF TERRITORY BY REBELS, NEGOTIATIONS WITH BENEVOLENT SUPPORT OF OUTSIDE INTERESTED POWER (IN CHADIAN CASE, LIBYA; IN OGADEN, SOMALIA). ETEKI THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT SIAD WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED IF HE EXPECTED ANY REAL HELP FROM LIBYANS. HOLMES

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